

5 -7 (Canceled).

8. (Previously presented) A nucleic acid vector comprising a nucleic acid molecule of claim 4.

9. (Currently amended) An isolated host cell containing the vector of claim 8.

10 – 23. (Canceled)

24. (Previously presented) A process for producing a polypeptide comprising culturing the host cell of claim 9 under conditions sufficient for the production of said polypeptide, and recovering the peptide from the host cell culture.

25. (Previously presented) An isolated polynucleotide consisting of a nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1.

26. (Currently amended) An isolated polynucleotide consisting of a nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:3 7.

27. (Previously presented) A vector according to claim 8, wherein said vector is selected from the group consisting of a plasmid, virus, and bacteriophage.

28. (Previously presented) A vector according to claim 8, wherein said isolated nucleic acid molecule is inserted into said vector in proper orientation and correct reading frame such that the protein of SEQ ID NO:2 4 may be expressed by a cell transformed with said vector.

29. (Previously presented) A vector according to claim 28, wherein said isolated nucleic acid molecule is operatively linked to a promoter sequence.

30. (Previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid molecule consisting of a nucleotide sequence that is completely complementary to a nucleotide sequence of claim 4. --